

THE FOUR ASSETS OF THE NATION

— AND A HARD-HITTING BUDGET

The four most important assets of the nation were outlined by Tun Abdul Razak when he spoke in Dewan Ra'ayat on 1967 Development Estimates. In doing this he disclosed that he himself was 'in actual fact the Minister of Finance for 24 hours' some years ago. He then went on to emphasize that "what is most needed at this stage of our development is not so much the amount of funds but the will to do work." Tun Razak's full speech is given below.

"That this House resolves that a sum not exceeding \$836,095,454 be expended out of the Development Fund in the year 1967, and that, to meet the purposes of the Heads and Sub-heads set out in the first and second columns of the Development Estimates for 1967. laid on the table as Command Paper No. 50 of 1966, there be appropriated the sums specified opposite such Heads and Sub-heads in the 7th and 8th columns thereof; and that the Resolution passed by this House on 25th October, 1966, in respect of expenditure to be met out of the Development Fund for the Development Fund for the financial year 1967 is hereby rescinded." j

This House may or may not know that for 24 hours some year ago. after a Cabinet reshuffle, I was in actual fact the Minister of Finance, but luckily because of Tunku's ever attentive ear. he listened to my plea and gave me a more cheerful and happier portfolio.

So I have every sympathy with my friend and colleague, the Minister of Finance, in performing his depressing task of introducing a hard-hitting Budget and as I was listening to him, I said to myself. "There but for the grace of God (and Tunku) "Go

Therefore. Sir. if the Minister of Finance depressed you will his speech, it is now my task to cheer up both you and all Members of this House.

We may be short of funds, but this does not mean we are a bankrupt nation: this does not mean the end of development, and the end of progress. The very fact that I can stand here and introduce these ambitious Development Estimates, supported by an equally ambitious Development Plan, shows that 1967, for our country Malaysia, is not the beginning of the end. but the beginning of the beginning!

Admittedly we can do much more with more money, and I can assure you, Sir, that the extra money raised by taxation, and that which we hope to receive from friendly donor countries, will be put to the utmost use for the utmost benefit of our future development.

We have a lot to be thankful for. 1967 stands before us as a year in which our country can develop even further, unshackled by the human and financial drain we suffered as a result of Confrontation.

Although, the withdrawal of Commonwealth Forces from East Malaysia has taken place, we are still left with our own loyal and efficient Army, Navy, Air and Police Forces, which although young, we, as a nation, are extremely proud, and I would like to take this opportunity, Sir, in my capacity as Minister of Defence, to call upon this House to pay tribute to the unselfish and loyal service which all officers and men of our Armed Forces gave to Malaysia when our sovereignty was so severely threatened during the last three years of Confrontation.

I am sure that no Member of this House would deny that we in this country owe gratitude to those who gave their lives and to those who suffered the stresses, strains and perils of the jungle in order that the rest of us could live safely and unhampered and apply ourselves with a feeling of security to the task of achieving further progress of our country.

However, Mr Speaker, Sir, although Confrontation is over, this is no time for complacency on matters affecting both Defence and Internal Security, and because of the continuing internal threat of subversion we still have to maintain a fairly large security force, and this means, maintaining considerable expenditure on Defence and Security.

Nevertheless, I, as Minister of Defence, give this House every assurance that no more funds will be spent than are absolutely necessary, and I know for a fact that the Minister of Development will not allow the Minister of Defence to waste unnecessary funds for military purposes.

Let us now turn to the question of development.

In presenting the First Malaysia Development Plan to this House, we, the Government, visualised that the full implementation of this Plan would require the raising of funds both from internal and external sources. So, there is nothing depressing or despairing about a tough budget.

We are merely putting our plans into force. So let us not be despondent; let us look towards 1967 with hope and determination that our Plan will succeed. Past performance over the last 5 years has shown that we have got the means, both mental and physical, and the know-how to implement a Plan and achieve results. The Estimates which I now move are the 1967 element of the five years of the First Malaysia Plan.

I do not want to analyse these Estimates item by item, but you will find that many of the major projects are the continuation of those which were started in the previous year. Also out of this sum of S836 million, are allocations for the implementation of new high priority projects which will contribute in a major way to the provision of infrastructure facilities and the needs for further economic and social development.

The allocation of this total sum among different Ministries and Departments of the Government conforms to the priorities of the First Malaysia Plan. Every effort has been made to eliminate any project which is not economical and which will not bring in definite benefits.

As these Estimates will be discussed in Committee I have no intention of isolating specific items for mention at the moment but I do stress that the Estimates should be continuously regarded by Members of this House in relation to, and in conjunction with, the overall Five-Year Development Plan.

What I do want to mention, however, and what I do want to stress are our sound assets. The Minister of Finance in his budget speech took stock of our financial liabilities. Let me take stock of our national assets.

First, our ever increasing political stability and our growing political maturity. Political stability is one of the first ingredients which a developing country must have if it is to attract the necessary investment for Development. We are politically stable and we are proud of it!

Our second asset is our capacity to plan wisely together with our administrative ability to implement these plans. The proof of this is the success and the results which we Achieved in our last Five-Year Plan.

During that period, as this House well knows but which the Opposition Members are reluctant to admit, we succeeded beyond all our expectations.

The achievement of that last Five-Year Plan laid a very sound framework without which modern development cannot take place. We have definitely established this firm base for development. This is our third asset

Let me now, Mr Speaker. Sir. turn to our fourth and most important asset, and that is, our human resources—our own people.

These resources fall into two categories: the harnessed human resources and the as yet unharnessed human resources. Let us take stock of our harnessed human resources.

The investment which the Alliance Government, since Merdeka. put into an ambitious Education Programme, is now beginning to repay with results.

The flow of professionally qualified Malaysians is gaining impetus. These young, qualified, modern Malaysians are taking their place in ever greater numbers, and playing their part in this great task of National development—

with new ideas—new skills—new abilities—new drive—new enthusiasm—new energy and new aspirations.

All these. Mr Speaker, Sir. are as important if not more so than money in the development process. Without these, no amount of money would lead us to the goal of progress we have set ourselves.

Let us turn now. Sir. to the unharnessed resources which we also have in even greater abundance.

As I have said before, comparing our country. Malaysia, to the rest of the world. I am convinced, and I know this for a fact, that there is no difference in the latent human potential which exists in other countries and the great potential that exists amongst our own people.

If in such times of national crisis the potentials and capabilities of our people can be really wakened up by floods, disasters and confrontation, why cannot the same spirit be aroused and channelled into something much more important—the task of developing our country towards greater progress?

This is what I mean by the unharnessed human resources which we have in abundance throughout the country. And Mr Speaker. Sir. this is my main message that in moving these Development Estimates—a message not only for this House but for the whole nation.

In the heart, mind and body of every single Malaysian lies an asset worth a thousand times more than the \$836 million we are going to debate.

What is most needed at this stage of our development is not so much the amount of funds but the *will to work*. This *will to work* cannot be legislated, cannot be voted by Parliament, cannot be allocated by a Minister. It cannot be borrowed from another country.

We must mobilise this asset to the full. We must galvanise our people to play a greater individual part in the implementation of our Development Plan. We must galvanise them to cultivate to the full every single acre of arable land, that has been given to them and to do a full day's work in return for a decent and dignified wage.

In other words, the year 1967 must be a year of greater application of effort on the part of every one of us.

Sir. I beg to move.

ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

"THREAT TO SECURITY OF SARAWAK"

Monday. 19th September. 1966. is an historic date in the history of Malaysia. It was on that day Tun Abdul Razak, the Deputy Prime Minister, made the following speech in moving a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Federal Constitution" in Parliament. In the course of his remarks Tun Razak stressed. "This Bill is only a temporary measure to deal with a serious situation concerning the security of Sarawak and the whole of Malaysia."

MR SPEAKER, Sir. I beg to move that a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Federal Constitution" to make provisions in respect of certain Constitutional amendments for the State of Sarawak consequent upon the proclamation of a State of Emergency having been effected and enforced in that State be read a second time

Sir. I have just explained to this House, the various events that took place in Sarawak since the middle of June this year which brought about the present constitutional and political crisis in that State.